

REMARKS

Claims 1-130 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 26, 40, 52, 67, 77, 100 and 116 are amended and claim 118-130 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Luby, Supervisory Patent Examiner Dickson, and Quality Assurance Specialist Melius during the interview conducted September 10, 2003. The points discussed during the interview are summarized in the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the substance of the interview.

During the interview it was agreed that Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) does not disclose or suggest a snowmobile combining a number of features including, among them, a steering device having a steering position that is disposed forward of the forward-most drive track axle. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that original independent claims 84, 92 and 104, which recite this feature, are allowable. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 26, 52, 67, 77 and 100, and new independent claim 118, which also recite this feature, are allowable.

Claims 2-25, 27-51, 53-66, 68-76, 78-83, 85-91, 93-99, 101-103, 105-117, and 119-130 recite additional features of the invention and are allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1, 26, 52, 67, 77, 84, 92, 100, 104 and 118 and for the additional features recited therein.

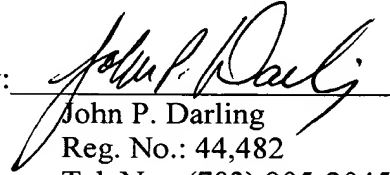
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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